

BOOK REVIEWS/NOTICES/BOOKS RECEIVED

Environmental/Ecology/Conservation/Landscape Ecology

GREG GORDON. 2003. **Landscape of Desire**. (ISBN 0-87421-560-9, ppk.). Utah State University Press, 7800 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-7800, U.S.A. (Orders: 435-797-1362, Fax 435-797-0313). \$19.95, 213 pp. 1 map, 6" × 9".

The old professor (AKA the old philosopher) takes a group of students from the Sierra Institute for a six weeks exploration of Utah's Canyon Country. He wants each person to experience the place "on a physical level" and develop a personal awareness of the environment." To help reinvent themselves as "they metamorphose from adolescence to adulthood," everyone takes a trail name. If the reader doesn't mind accompanying Sage, Yucca, Seeker, Bobofet, Seaweed, Metta, Mud, and Huckleberry, he can learn a great deal from this book. Gordon is extremely knowledgeable about the natural history and folklore of this magnificent country and describes it in a lively manner as the group descends through the 16 geologic formations of the San Raphael/Dirty region.

Another purpose of the trip is to document the abuse of the land by motorbikes and all terrain vehicles. This leads to the examination of the whole question of the conflict between development and preservation. It's no contest. Gordon is a disciple of Leopold and Abbey.

I missed maps and pictures.—*Ruth Ginsburg, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

VACLAV SMIL. 2002. **The Earth's Biosphere: Evolution, Dynamics, and Change**. (ISBN 0-262-19472-4, hbk.). The MIT Press, 5 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142-1493, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-405-1619, mitpress-orders@mit.edu, <http://mitpress.mit.edu>). \$32.95, 346 pp., 138 illustrations, 8" × 9".

Contents.—**1)** Evolution of the Idea: From Vernadsky to a Science of the Global Environment; **2)** Life in the Universe: Attributes, Constraints, and Probabilities; **3)** Life's Diversity and Resilience: Metabolisms, Species, Catastrophes; **4)** Energizing the Biosphere: Solar Radiation and the Earth's Heat; **5)** Water and Material Flows: Biospheric Cycles; **6)** The Biosphere's Extent: The Moveable Boundaries; **7)** The Biosphere's Mass and Productivity: Quantifying Life's Presence and Performance; **8)** The Biosphere's Dynamics and Organization: Fundamental Rules and Grand Patterns; **9)** Civilization and the Biosphere: The Earth Transformed by Human Action; **10)** Epilogue; Appendixes; References; Scientific Name Index; Name Index; and Subject Index.

BRIAN ALEXANDER. 2003. **Rapture: How Biotech Became the New Religion**. (ISBN 0-7382-0761-6, hbk.). Basic Books, A Member of the Perseus Books Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, U.S.A. (Orders: 212-340-8100, www.basicbooks.com). \$25.95, 256 pp., 6" × 9 1/4".

Contents.—**1)** Waiting for the Rapture; **2)** The Prophet; **3)** The Endless Frontier; **4)** Arise, Lazarus Long!; **5)** The Immortal Mr. Steinberg; **6)** Way Out West; **7)** Bring On the Inquisition Water into Wine; **9)** Pop! Goes the Rapture; **10)** The Rapture Rides in a Limo; Acknowledgments; Notes; and Index.

This book basically sheds light on the modern science of cloning, stem cells, miracle drugs, and genetic engineering.

ARTHUR MOLELLA and JOYCE BEDI (eds.). 2003. **Inventing for the Environment**. (ISBN 0-262-13427-6, hbk.). The MIT Press, 5 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142-1493, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-405-1619, mitpress-orders@mit.edu, <http://mitpress.mit.edu>). \$29.95, 398 pp., 49 illustrations, 7" × 9 1/4".

From the dustjacket.—"This ambitious book describes the many ways in which invention affects the environment (here defined broadly to include all forms of interaction between humans and nature). The book starts with nature itself and then leads readers to examine the built environment and the specific technologies in areas such as public health and energy."

Contents.—On Nature and Technology; What Role Does Innovation Play in Urban Landscapes? How do Innovations in City Planning Shape the Environment? How Do Innovations in Architecture Affect the Environment? How can Innovations in Alternative Energy Sources Affect the Environment; How are the Principles of Industrial Ecology Applied to Benefit the Environment; Conclusion: The New Environmentalism, and Index.

PAULO S. OLIVEIRA and ROBERT J. MARQUIS (eds.). 2002. **The Cerrados of Brazil: Ecology and Natural History of a Neotropical Savanna**. (ISBN 0-231-12043-5, hbk.). Columbia University Press, 136 South Broadway, Irvington, NY 10533-2599, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-944-1844 fax, <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/>). \$29.95, 398 pp., 49 illustrations, 7" × 9 1/4".

Contents.—**1)** Introduction: Development of Research in the Cerrados; **PART I.** Historical Framework and the Abiotic Environment; **2)** Relation of Soils and Geomorphic Surfaces in the Brazilian Cerrado; **3)** Late Quaternary History and Evolution of the Cerrados as Revealed by Palynological Records; **4)** The Fire Factor; **5)** Past and Current Human Occupation and Land-Use. **PART II.** The Plant Community: Composition, Dynamics, and Life-History. **6)** Vegetation Physiognomies and Woody Flora of the Cerrado Biome; **7)** Herbaceous Plant Communities; **8)** Patterns and Dynamics of Plant Populations; **9)** The Role of Fire in Population Dynamics of Woody Plants; **10)** Ecophysiology of Woody Plants. **PART III.** The Animal Community: Diversity and Biogeography. **11)** Lepidoptera in the Cerrado Landscape and the Conservation of Vegetation, Soil, and Topographical Mosaics; **12)** The Character and Dynamics of the Cerrado Herpetofauna; **13)** The Avifauna: Ecology, Biogeography, and Behavior; **14)** The Cerrado Mammals: Diversity, Ecology, and Natural History. **PART IV.** Insect-Plant Interactions. **15)** Ant Foraging on Plant Foliage: Contrasting Effects on the Behavioral Ecology of Insect Herbivores; **16)** Interactions Among Cerrado plants and Their Herbivores: Unique or typical? Robert J. Marquis; **17)** Pollination and Reproductive Biology in Cerrado Plant Communities. **PART V.** The Conservation of the Cerrados. **18)** Biodiversity and Conservation Priorities in the Cerrado Region; Index.

SARA OLDFIELD. 2002. **Rainforest**. (ISBN 0-262-15106-5, hbk.). The MIT Press, 5 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142-1493, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-405-1619, mitpress-orders@mit.edu, <http://mitpress.mit.edu>). \$29.95, 160 pp., 200 color illustrations, 9 1/2" × 12 1/2".

This book is a great reminder of the incredible beauty and diversity of rainforests around the world. The stunning photography is by Bruce Coleman Collection. Review forthcoming in Sida 21(1), 2004.

LOREN M. SMITH. 2003. **Playas of the Great Plains**. (ISBN 0-292-70177-2, pbk; 0-292-70534-4, hbk.). University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A., (Orders: 800-252-3206, 800-687-6046 fax). \$24.95 (pbk), \$60.00 (hbk), 264 pp., 34 b/w illustrations, 6 maps, 6" × 9".

This book is about wetland ecology and conservation of the Playas of the High Plains. There are eight chapters broken down under three main sections; **Playas and their Environment: 1)** What is a Playa?; **2)** Origin and Development. **Ecosystem Aspects: 3)** Flora; **4)** Fauna; **5)** Structure, Function, and Diversity. **Conservation Aspects: 6)** Historical, Cultural, and Current Societal Value of Playas; **7)** Threats to Proper Function of Playas; **8)** Conservation Past, Present, and Future; Appendix; References; Index.

JAMES A. YOUNG and CHARLIE D. CLEMENTS. 2002. **Purshia: The Wild and Bitter Roses**. (ISBN 0-87417-491-0, hbk.). University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076, U.S.A. (Orders: 775-784-6573 x232, 775-784-6200 fax, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu). \$39.95, 280 pp., 35 b/w photos, 4 illustrations, 3 maps, 6" × 9 1/4".

The genus *Purshia* is in the family Rosaceae. The book is an indepth look at the ecology and management of habitat for these important species of plants that form a vital component of the western and intermountain vegetation. Twelve chapters discuss everything from the historical aspects of the wild and bitter roses to bitterbrush plant communities to insects and plant diseases to management issues related to *Purshia* species. The text is supplemented with line drawings and photographs.

Plant Physiology/Plant Anatomy/Pathology/Agriculture

RICHARD C. KEATING. 2003. **Anatomy of the Monocotyledons. IX Acoraceae and Araceae**. (ISBN 0-19-850122-6, hbk.). M. GREGORY and D.F. CUTLER (eds.). Oxford University Press. (Orders: Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513, U.S.A., 800-451-7556, 919-677-1303 fax, www.oup.com). \$125.00, 327 pp., 855 photomicrographs in 115 plates, 7 1/2" × 9 1/2".

This is volume nine in the continuation of the series *Anatomy of the Monocotyledons*. Based upon anatomical, morphological, and molecular data, a new classification system of the Araceae is presented.